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THE NARRATIVE OF THE SESSIONS,

February 26. 167⅞.

WITH

A particular Account of the TRIAL of the Notorious

COINERS,

That received Sentence for

TREASON:

AND

All other Malefactors Condemned, Burnt in the Hand, or to be Whipt, and their respective Crimes.

LICENSED, *February* 27. 167⅞.

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The Narrative of the Proceedings at the Sessions, *February* 26. 167^{8}_{9}.

THis Sessions beginning in the *Old Bailey*, 26 *February*, the first person brought to Tryal, was an unhappy Wench, whom the Devil had seduced to endeavour to cover the filthy sin of Fornication, with the Scarlet Mantle of Murder, having made away her own new-born Bastard-Child, and in a very barbarous manner cut the Throat of it so violently, that the Head was almost seperated from the body, which being found so exposed in an Alley near *Bishops gate-street*, and not far from the Prisoners dwelling, search was made for all persons lyable to be suspected; and amongst the rest she charged, who at first denyed that she had had any Child, at last confessed that, but not the whole truth: however, on full evidence, nothing necessary here to be related, she was found guilty.

As were likewise a Man and a Woman for a Burglary, who broke into a poor Womans House in the Evening, whilst she was gone to buy Candle, and upon her return, were taken in the manner, having removed several Goods, but carried none quite away, though narrowly prevented; for the Man-prisoner being by profession a Porter, was busily preparing for their removal. As for the Woman, her Husband but the last Sessions received the reward of his Merits at *Tyburn*.

Another Woman whipt but the last Sessions save one, was now Convicted for a Felony, stealing a parcel of Cloths out of an House, but discovered before she had quite secured the booty, and forc'd to drop them in the street, for which she was Condemned.

A Man coming to drink at an Ale-house in *Birchin-lane*, made such use of his Art to convey away a Silver Tankerd, but scarce knowing what to do with it when he had it, gets a band-box, and putting the Tankard therein, goes to another Ale-house in

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Fineb-lane, where he was wholly a ſtranger, and gives the ſaid Box to the Gentlewoman of the Houſe, to lay up for him till he call'd for it; who perceiving ſomething in it to rattle, and the Box having neither Lock nor Seal, out of an innocent curioſity took up the Lid, where ſeeing a Tankard Inſcribed, with the Name and place of Dwelling of her Neighbour, ſhe ſent for him, and ſometime after the Priſoner calling for his Box, was apprehended, and now burnt in the hand, which he well deſerved, if we conſider either his wickedneſs in ſtealing, or his folly in managing the Theft.

The ſame puniſhment was awarded another Man for the like offence of ſtealing a Tankard from an Houſe in *Woodſtreet*, with whom was Indicted a Woman, but ſhe paſſing for his Wife, and ſo the Law favourably ſuppoſing what ſhe was concern'd in the Fact, to be by Coertion of her Husband, was acquitted.

A young fellow coming to a Sempſtreſſes ſhop, pretended to buy Cravats, who ſhewed him ſeveral, and ſome Money he had bidden for two, which ſhe refuſing to except, he reſolved to have them cheaper, (though like to prove a dear bargain) for on a ſudden he betakes him to his heels, but ſhe crying out after him, he was quickly ſeized. In this caſe, becauſe he had the Goods delivered into his hand by the Proſecutor to look upon, ſome ſcruple was raiſed, whether the running away with them afterwards, was Felony; ſo that the Jury found the matter ſpecially, and 'tis left to be determined by the Judges.

A bold Woman, that had lately been Servant to a Gentleman of Quality, having purloined a conſiderable quantity of his Plate, and being thereof fairly Convicted, was ſentenc'd to dye.

In the Afternoon, on *Wedneſday*, a Lad belonging to a Ship, called the *Laurence and Mary*, lying below *Wapping-dock*, was Tryed for Killing one *Tho. Young* on board another Ship, called the *Advance*, lying hard by the former. The Priſoner was trying his skill in ſhooting at the Cat-head of his own ſhip as a Mark; but the Bullet glancing thereon, flew to the other ſhip, and through the boards of the great Cabbin, and there unhappily killed the ſaid *Young*, who was caſually come on board to ſee the Ship,

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hitting him in the Forehead, that he presently died; whereupon they that were with him running out on the Deck, and enquiring who fired that Piece, the Prisoner own'd it, and presently came on board of his own accord; declaring both then, and now at the Bar, his hearty sorrow for the Mischance: for as he had no malice, so could he not ever see the person dead, or those that were with him, because they were in the Cabbin as aforesaid. However, it being adjudged an unlawful Act in him to shoot so negligently on the River, where so many Vessels and People are continually passing, he was found Guilty of Manslaughter, and carries a *Memorandum* in his Hand, to make him and others more wary for the future.

The next was a base and horrid Cause, horrid in the pretensions, and a sin not to be named amongst Christians; and base in the management, since nothing of that kind could be made appear. The person accused was a Man of good repute and competent fortune, which 'tis feared was the first motive to the Prosecution, hoping to get a summ of Money out of him, rather than endure the disgrace even of being charged or suspected of such an odious Crime. The Girl that pretended the wrong done her, being between 13 and 14 years of Age, told her Story very confidently; but by her own shewing it appeared, that for 12 Weeks or upwards she never spoke a word of it, and two Surgeons and a Midwife that had search'd her, utterly confuted what she alleadged; besides 'twas made out, that her Father would have compounded the business, but demanded 100 *l. &c.* Upon all which Circumstances, and many persons of Repute justifying the Prisoners credit and conversation for many years without Blemish, he was thereupon acquitted by the Jury, and with particular notice of his Innocence from the Court discharged, and the Girls Father ordered to give Security for his good Behaviour.

A Fellow at *Stepney* having one Night made an invasion on an Hen-roost, and carried away captive about 18 of them, of which some were found at one of his Neighbours house, where he left them,

them, was for the same found Guilty of petty Larceny, and ordered to be Whipt. As also was another for stealing a laced Waistcoat out of a Ship, which was found upon his Back.

A Woman was Convicted of Felony, for robbing one in *Hatton-garden* on the 2d of *February*. Having lately been Servant there, she had observed where they used to lay the Key of their outward Door, when they went forth, and so comes with two of her Companions, goes into the house, breaks open a Closet door and a Desk, and takes away 11 *l.* odde Money and a Sword, and so lockt the Street-door and go their way; but left behinde them a Chezil, which was proved to have been borrowed the same Afternoon by her in *Fetter-lane*: and that she and two men did go forth together, assoon as she had got that Tool, and were also seen at the House where the Robbery was done.

Two Rag-women were Indicted for stealing two Gowns and several other Wearing-cloaths, in the *Strand*. A Gentlewomans door being accidentally left open, there were several strong presumptions against them, but no positive proof, so they were acquitted on Thursday in the forenoon.

A person was Convicted for stealing two Livery Cloaks, and the seats out of two Coaches at *Piccadilly*, and being pursued, the Goods were taken in the same Room with him at *Maribone*. So was another for breaking open a Shop in *Fetter-lane* the 14th of *February*, and stealing one Beaver, and several other Hats, to the value of Ten pound; some of which were taken upon him in *Middlesex*, and therefore he was tryed by that Jury.

A Wench, formerly a servant to a Washerwoman in St. *Margarets Westminster*, had four Indictments brought against her for stealing of Linnen, some of which was the Washerwomans own, but most of the parcels other peoples: The Prisoner acknowledged she did pawn the things, but pretended it was done by the Dames order; and it did appear, she had sent her sometimes with things to the Pawn-brokers, so that she was cleared of three Indictments; but a Gentlewomans shift that her Mistris washt to, being found on her back, she was on the fourth found guilty, to

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the value of ten pence, and so to be well whipt. As likewise were two Men for stealing a couple of Pigs at *Wapping*, they appearing very sorrowful for their Crime; which as they affirmed it to be the first, so they protested it should be the last that ever they would be guilty of, in that or the like kind.

A Woman Arraigned for breaking an House in the day time, and stealing Goods, and that she had confessed one put them out to her at an hole; denying now very confidently, that she knew of, or was any way concern'd in the business; the Court of a sudden asking her, what the Womans Name was, that so flung the things out? to which, before she was aware, she replyed, *Mary*, and so in effect own'd her own share in the Fact; but the things being of no great value, 'tis like only to cost her a whipping Pilgrimage.

But the most considerable Transactions of this day, were the Tryals of two most notorious Coiners and Clippers of Money; who upon full and plain Evidence, and their own Confession at Bar, were found guilty of two Indictments of High-Treason apiece; and indeed, 'tis believed, they have not equals in that wicked Mistery in *England*. They stampt Groats, Nine-pences, Six-pences, Shillings, Half-Crowns, and Five-shilling pieces; no sort came amiss to them; and they had an Art to make a Nine-pence or Groat just new made, look as if it had been Coined these hundred years. Two Witnesses swore directly against each of them, that they had severally seen them at work, both Coining and Clipping, and produced great variety of the individual pieces, which they had seen pass through their skill and handling. Their Instruments likewise, mixt Mettals, and other Utensils taken in their respective Lodgings were publickly shown. They were both of a Gang, and confessed they had for some years been concerned in such practises. The Witnesses had been acquainted with them, and designing a discovery, seemed to comply with them, and furnish them with large Money, which first they would Clip, and with those Clippings and baser Mettals, Coin new Money, and then Clip that too to make it pass with less suspition. Four Five-shilling pieces they will afford for twenty shillings good Money,

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and twenty ſhillings in Groats of their own Manufacture, for fifteen ſhillings Sterling; and one of them offered to teach one of the Witneſſes ſuch his Trade for ſix pound, and to make and ſell rare ſtamps for Coining, at Ten pound a pair. The matter was ſo evident, that they had nothing to ſay for themſelves, and ſo could not but be both found guilty by the Jury, of the ſeveral Crimes of Treaſon, wherewith they ſtood charged, and were accordingly condemn'd to be Drawn and Hang'd.

Two honeſt men of *Fulham* were charged for ſtealing a Mare, but upon a long diſquiſition of the matter, it not appeared that the Mare in queſtion, was the ſame the Proſecutor loſt; but rather on the contrary, that one of the Men at the Bar, had this Mare given him by a Worthy Gentleman in *Suſſex*, whereupon they were acquitted. So likewiſe was a Woman of St. *Martins in the fields* Indicted for Murther, but by the Witneſſes it onely appeared, That as long ago as laſt Eaſter Holy-days, a fray happened between her and the party deceaſed, and that they were down together, but the Priſoner uppermoſt; that the ſaid party liv'd till ſince Chriſtmaſs, and then dyed, having been infirm, and as was aſſerted, troubled with a Dropſie.

Three perſons were Convicted of Felony, for Robbing a Scotch-Merchant (or Pedlar) of above five pounds worth of Holland Callime, flaxen Stockings, *&c.* in the night *Feb.* 1. at his Lodging in *Rocheſter*, three Men forced into his Chamber with drawn Swords, *&c.* who took away the Goods, but underſtanding afterwards, ſome Pedlers were ſeen carry a bundle, he on enquiry got their Names, whom he followed, and at the Houſe of one of them, found part of his things, and hard by the Perſons, and on one of their legs, a pair of his Stockings, in anothers pocket his Tobacco-box, and a third confeſſed the Robbery; whereupon, being Indicted only in *Middleſex*, it was but a ſimple Felony, for which they eſcaped with a Brand; whereas in *Kent* it would have proved a Burghlary, which mercy the Court minded them of, as a grand Argument to warn them from running into any future Crimes of that kind, ſince they are like no more to be indulged by any favour.

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A complaint having been made, that a considerable sum of Money had been extorted by some under Officers, from the Relations of a person lately Executed, before they could obtain his Body to burie it, the Court was pleased to inquire thereinto, and nobly expressing their detestation of the inhumane practices of such Vulters, as would make a prey even of Mens Carcasses, compelled one that had received some of the Money, to refund it in their presence, with farther marks of displeasure threatned to be inflicted.

There were in all fourteen burnt in the Hand, and nine Condemned to Die, *viz.* two Men for Treason, one Woman for Murther, a Man and a Woman for Burghlary, and four Women for notorious House-breakings and Felonies, most of them having formerly been Whipt, burnt in the Hand, or received other chastisements, and yet would take no warning.

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